REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1-30 stand rejected.

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. Claim 31 has been added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by the present amendment.

The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Specification Objection

The Abstract of the present application stands objected for the reason stated on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, applicants have amended the Abstract as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the specification objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103:

I. Claims 1-4, 7-9, 17, 20-22 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al. (U.S. 6,052, 173) in view of Yamamoto et al. (U.S. 4,905,037).

Amended claims 1 and 17 recite, *inter alia*, "a wavelength converter for converting a wavelength of the source light of about 315nm to about 400nm to a wavelength of about 193 nm."

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Miura, Yamamoto, nor any combination thereof teaches or suggests the above-claimed features. As stated in the Office Action, Miura does not disclose a wavelength converter. For this element, the Office Action relines on Yamamoto.

Yamamoto states:

Since the laser 80 generated by the semiconductor laser source 78 has a wavelength that usually falls within a range between 760nm and 780nm, the wavelength converting filter 24 is provided to shorten the wavelength of the laser 80 as generated by the source 78, to a level to which the photosensitive paper 16 is sensitive.

A laser source for generating a laser radiation has a first wavelength and a wavelength converter disposed in a light path defined between said laser source and said deflector, for converting the modulated laser radiation to a radiation having a second wavelength, wherein the first wavelength of said laser radiation falls within a range of 760-780nm, and said radiation having said second wavelength is ultraviolet radiation.

(Yamamoto, Col. 10, lines 34-40; Claim 8).

In other words, Yamamoto is describing a wavelength converter for converting a wavelength of the source light of about 760-780nm to a wavelength of about an ultra violet range. However, Yamamoto does not disclose the claimed wavelength ranges.

Further, applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Yamamoto with Miura. Indeed, Yamamoto teaches away from combining with Miura because Yamamoto discourages using a mercury lamp emitting UV radiation which is used in Miura. Yamamoto states that "[g]enerally, mercury lamps and xenon lamps are considered as light sources emitting such short-wavelength lights. However, these lamps are expensive, and require a large-sized power supply. Further, an image transfer system equipped with a light source that emits ultraviolet rays requires expensive optical elements which are adapted to the ultraviolet rays. It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide and improved image transfer system capable of forming images on a photosensitive medium, which uses a comparatively simple, small-sized and inexpensive light source for exposing the photosensitive medium". (Yamamoto, Col. 1, lines 50-68). Thus, the object of Yamamoto invention is to provide a light source other

than the UV light source. Accordingly, one ordinary skill in the art would not look to Yamamoto to remove photoresist using a UV light source.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the references were combined, the combination does not disclose or suggest "a wavelength converter for converting a wavelength of the source light of about 315nm to about 400nm to a wavelength of about 193 nm."

Accordingly, the Examiner's reliance on Yamamoto to support the rejection under §103 is misplaced and the rejection of claims 1 and 17 are legally deficient. As claims 2-4 and 7-9 depend from claim 1, and claims 20-22 and 25-27 depend from claim 17, they are also not rendered obvious by Miura in view of Yamamoto for at least these reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 5-6, 10-14, 18-19, 23-24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al. (U.S. 6,052, 173) in view of Yamamoto et al. (U.S. 4,905,037) and further in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,811,211).

Claims 5-6, 10-14, 18-19, 23-24 and 28 depend from claims 1 and 17, respectively. These dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Miura in view of Yamamoto and further in view of Tanaka due to their dependency on the allowable base claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

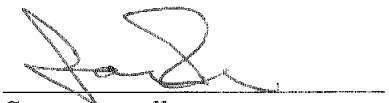
III. Claims 15-16 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al. (U.S. 6,052, 173) in view of Yamamoto et al. (U.S. 4,905,037) and further in view of Minemoto et al. (US 5,381,429).

Claims 15-16 and 29-30 depend from claims 1 and 17, respectively. These dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Miura in view of Yamamoto and further in view of Minemoto due to their dependency on the allowable base claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application, including claims 1-31, is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if he has any questions or comments in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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